

The Schlelein Family

Missionaries to the Tsongas of southern Africa

JULY 2012 | LIMPOPO, SOUTH AFRICA

He Said "Yes"

And just like that, soon after our update asking prayer for the church property, the chief conceded. The holes are now dug for the fence. Of course, the Big Man asked for some mula underneath the table, but as the Shangaan saying goes: "The one who blames the chief does not come back."

Furlough

Speaking of coming back, our family will be taking our first furlough at the end of 2012 from October to the first week in February. Our 11 supporting churches are almost booked, and we look forward to chewing the cud with our friends and family back in the States.

Of Machetes and Beer Bottles

Since 2006, we've probably been robbed two dozen times. Remind me to tell about the time I slept outside and tied my most expensive tools around my ankle to lure the thieves. Anyway, I went to court a couple weeks back to testify against the man who broke in and stole some of our things. The case before mine was that of a husband who repeatedly struck his wife on the head with a machete and broken bottle. She was sitting two seats in front of me and was paralyzed on the right side. He pled guilty. The court then put on its meanest face and said: "Striking a defenseless woman will not be tolerated in this country. We aim to make an example of you." Now the Shangaan have proverb that goes thus: "The case is a pot of sweet potatoes", meaning, "The verdict is perfectly clear." Give the guy 15 years and lets move on. The final ruling: a \$200 fine. I was waiting for a laugh track to play over the loud speakers.

After that, I thought they'd have *me* paying the guy who stole my things. He got seven years.

Remember these two things

Seth will be teaching a class on Contemporary Christianity at LBI this semester. Pray that his class will be filled people and the Spirit. Second, our eyes are always looking to the next African country to minister in after our church is established here. Pray for open doors in closed countries.

Plodding,

Paul, Melinda & the kids

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